

I.O. 9701



(C.I.D.) Office Notes

October 16, 1929
2010

Sir,

Herewith I beg to forward an agreement re. General Pegtiagin's ^{million} which was deposited in the Yokohama Specie Bank in Tokyo, and which belonged to the ex-Siberian Government of Admiral Kolchak.

The agreement has been made between three parties namely:

- 1) Gen. Lieut D. L. Horvath, the representative of Grand Duke Nicholas Nicholasovich of the Far East and Mr Moravsky, representative of the now non existing Siberian Autonomous Government
- 2) Mr Kondo, acting on behalf of Mr Nakamura
- 3) Mr Kamiura, acting on behalf of the law office of Mr Owata of Tokyo, who represent the

Interests of Major Kuroki
Attached is also a photograph
of a telegram from General
Podtiagin to Chiga Shisuo
Kaniura re. aforesaid agreement
and also a photograph with
translation re. an extract from
Power of attorney issued by
the Grand Duke Nicholas, Nicholasovich
in the name of General Horvath.

B. Maklarsky
P.C.S.

Wb 16¹⁰/₂₈

Authorities

Wb 16¹⁰/₂₈

Copy to:
H. B. Lawrence
R. L. L. H. H. Halland,
Capt. J. P. Sherry,
R. L. L. L. L. L.

Summary.

The Shanghai Jarya of October 13, writes as follows:-

Podiatin's Million.

The question of the fate of the money and property of the former Russian Government has as yet not been decided upon.

In foreign countries there is a large store of gold which was brought out of Russia during and even after the war. Among this we find also the gold paid by the Bolsheviks to Germany in compliance with the Brest Treaty and which in accordance with the Versailles Agreement is under the care of the allies. These hundreds of thousands of Gold Roubles are still untouched although France once made recourse to these sums to arrange some credit transaction. The remainder of the mercantile marine is practically liquidated. The last steps in this respect were taken by Rumania.

Neither the Soviet Government nor the Emigrants have raised any claims for these monies and property kept in foreign countries. The reason for this is simple: the countries in which this gold is kept were Russian creditors and look upon the gold as a guarantee of Russian debts to them. An exception to this was only the money kept in Japan under the control of the former military agent to that country, General Podiatin.

After the departure of the former Ambassador, the rights and power of the military agent became void. The sum deposited in his name in the banks by the Siberian Government suddenly had no owner or rather manager and as a result terrible fights ensued which had for their object just this very money. All persons and organizations which considered themselves representatives of the vanished Siberian Government raised claims for that very tempting million. Court proceedings were opened which to this day have not been completely terminated.

This million was so tempting that some organizations carried on extensive work only in order to have a right to claim something when this Russian property would be divided. All those who had very small rights to claim and those who had no rights came forward referring themselves to past documents or future hopes. Even the well-known five-minute-government which considered itself in full power while every one in Vladivostok was embarking on Japanese boats came forward with claims for the million.

The most energetic ~~xxx~~ amongst these claimants were several persons who were constant visitors of the various Japanese institutions, and who had made sure of the lions share of the million when same should be divided. So far however this question or rather problem has not been quite solved and it would be a serious error on the part of the Japanese Government should they take upon themselves to clear up the various claims of past and future Russian statesmen.

The most sensible decision would certainly be to pass the money on to that Dept. of the League of Nations which is busy to assist the Russian emigrants scattered all over the world and who in many cases suffer dreadful privations.